

REMARKS

Claim 14 is amended herein. No claims have been added. **The claims remaining in consideration are claims 14, 40-48, 50, 52 and 53.** All other claims have been cancelled. Claims 9 and 40 are the independent claims remaining under consideration. No new matter has been added by this amendment and response.

I. Rejections Under 35 USC §§ 102 and 103

Claims 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,884,562 to Stone ("Stone"), and claims 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Stone. Claim 9 has been amended herein to incorporate the limitations of dependent claim 14, as well as the limitations of all intervening claims, in view of the Examiner's indication that claim 14 is allowable over the prior art of record. Claims 10-13 have cancelled herein. Therefore, the applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of these rejections.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has concluded that Claims 40-48, 50, 52 and 53 are allowed. Claim 14 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if re-written in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The limitations of claim 14, as well as the limitations of all intervening claims, have been incorporated into claim 9 by amendment herein.

III. Conclusion


In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that Claims 14, 40-48, 50, 52 and 53 are now in condition for allowance over the art, whether considered alone or in combination, as the specific combination of structural features presently claimed is neither taught nor suggested thereby.

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

No new matter has been introduced by the above-requested amendments. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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